

# Family Farmers: Feeding the world, caring for the earth

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Topics: **Family Farming**

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## FAMILY FARMERS

### Feeding the world, caring for the earth

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There are more than **570 million farms** in the world of which over **500 million are family owned**

They are responsible for at least **56%** of agricultural production

agricultural forestry fisheries pastoral production aquaculture production

Family farmers work on a significant portion of the world's farmland.

Region	Percentage
NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA	83%
SOUTH AMERICA	18%
EUROPE	68%
AFRICA	62%
ASIA	85%

Family farmers manage their lands to sustain remarkably high levels of productivity despite having less access to productive resources such as agricultural inputs and support.

Country	Production Share	Farmland Share
Brazil	40% of the production of a selection of major crops	25% of the farmland
World (in 113)	84% of yam, rice, manioc, maize and bean production	47.4% of the farmland
United States	84% of all produce - totalling USD 230 billion in sales	78% of all farmland

Family farming preserves traditional food products, while contributing to a balanced diet and safeguarding the world's agro-biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources.

More than **3.5 billion people** depend on rice for at least **20% of their daily calories**

More than **1 billion people** depend on rice production for their livelihoods.

Family farms are the main source of rice production - especially in Asia

2014 International Year of Family Farming

The United Nations declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming. FAO, in collaboration with its partners, is facilitating the implementation of the year with the following objectives:

- Support the development of agricultural, environmental and social policies conducive to sustainable family farming
- Increase knowledge, communication and public awareness
- Attain better understanding of family farming needs, potential and constraints and ensure technical support
- Create synergies for sustainability

fao.org/family-farming-2014

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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